

Message from the Executive Director



Established in 1968 as a community-based, self-help agency, Aspira, Inc. of New Jersey works to break the grim cycle of poverty, inadequate schooling, and sense of hopelessness for Puerto Rican and other Hispanic youth, through education and leadership development.

This report reflects the significant, positive accomplishments of Aspira during the year ending June 30, 1978. Aspira continues to reaffirm its advocacy role on behalf of New Jersey's Hispanic youth. In December, Aspira chaired the first Statewide Conference of Hispanics on Higher Education with over 150 representatives of New Jersey's Hispanic organizations and institutions of higher education in attendance. As a result of the conference, The New Jersey Association of Hispanics in Higher Education was established to urge improvements in affirmative action, admissions, and bilingual education. The Association will also work with state officials to assure an active role for Hispanics in drawing up New Jersey's new Master Plan for Higher Education. We see this as a significant step towards remedying underrepresentation of Hispanics in all aspects of college affairs.

Aspira also took the lead in making health care education more accessible to Hispanics. The agreement reached between the Hispanic community (with Aspira in the forefront) and the College of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, resulted in a new position for an Hispanic recruiter/counselor. The counselor has been hired and is now actively recruiting and counseling potential medical students for admission to the entire College network. The College also agreed to the outlines of a promising program aimed at increasing the recruitment of Hispanic faculty and staff.

In other advocacy areas, my staff and I served on the United Way's Community Planning Board; the Statewide School Watch Committee; the Regional Health Planning Council for metropolitan New Jersey; the Hispanic Directors Association; in the Puerto Rican Legal Defense Fund's class action against competency testing in New York City; and on two special task forces of the State Department of Higher Education.

Aspira, Inc. of New Jersey is celebrating its tenth year of service to Hispanic teenagers with this graduating class. With the beginning of a new decade, Aspira's programs have expanded beyond helping only those with a clear potential for higher education. Now we are seeking out Hispanic teenagers outside the reach of a school-based approach. Aspira has vocational and adult education programs, neighborhood center-based clubs, juvenile

delinquency prevention programs, and most recently, programs in the creative arts. We are committed to making a difference in the lives of the large number of teenagers too often considered losers. We are working diligently to expand into South Jersey so that we can serve students statewide.

However, we are concerned about the impact of the dwindling commitment to the cities, the poor and minorities. Inflation continues while government spending for social services slants downward. This thrust hurts Puerto Ricans disproportionately. Puerto Ricans still have the highest drop-out rate and the lowest incomes in this nation.

We count on those in the private sector who have already shown us their spirit and support in the past to continue the effort with us to change these distressing statistics, and to help assure that every individual has the opportunity to live up to his or her potential.

Grizet Ubarry
Ms. Grizet Ubarry
Executive Director
March 1979

Program Report 1978

Introduction

Aspira, Inc. of New Jersey serves teenagers and young adults from low-income families in Essex, Passaic and Hudson Counties. Our clients are mainly Puerto Rican, but we also serve other Hispanics, as well as White and Black teenagers. The range of young people is very wide. Some have left school and are in search of work; others are below grade level, have little incentive to attend school, and are in need of tutorial services and educational counseling. Some are students undecided about pursuing higher education and are looking for guidance to alternatives. Still others need to become involved in creative and productive activities to enhance their self-image and occupy their time constructively.

Aspira is dedicated to helping these teenagers break the poverty cycle, overcome the language barrier and pursue higher education goals and meaningful leadership roles which, in turn, will contribute to

the advancement of the Hispanic community throughout the State of New Jersey. The Aspira process encompasses leadership development, education counseling, home visits, career counseling, financial aid assistance and tutorial services.

During fiscal year 1978, Aspira provided educational, recreational and counseling services for a total of 2,148 Hispanic young people—500 more than the previous year. Close to 1,300 of these students were new to the program. Since it was founded in 1969, Aspira, Inc. of New Jersey has provided services to 5,448 teenagers and young adults.

Last year, Aspira helped 449 students gain admission to colleges, medical and graduate schools, as well as technical schools.

The following are program highlights from each of Aspira's three County Centers. The activities are listed as a measure of the wide range of opportunities which Aspira's program offers. Each Center, taking its cue from the students themselves, develops programs which the group agrees upon as deserving high priority. In this way Aspira provides a program which responds to the particular group's interests at that time, and offers a system for fostering the spark of motivation within each student.

Essex County Center

The Counselors at this Center provide in-school counseling services to two junior and six senior high schools where Aspira Clubs are also organized. In addition, these Counselors work with dropouts, young adults and pre-med college students. The Center offers special programs in pre-law, health careers, vocational and technical careers, and internships in health, business and social service. This year 13 students were placed in pre-medical summer enrichment programs and 27 in in-school internships in health careers. Since 1974, thirty-two Aspirantes have been accepted into medical or dental school with the help of the Aspira Process. Highlights of this year's program activities for the Essex County students include:

- Youth Expo '78
- Bilingual Work Experience Internship
- Tours to various State colleges and universities
- Youth March for Jobs in Washington, D.C.
- Career Day Conference
- Puerto Rican Discovery Day
- Puerto Rican Day Parade
- Aspira Annual Art Exhibit
- Workshops on: SAT, college applications, financial aid

Hudson County Center

This is the second year that this Center in Jersey City, funded by the Law Enforcement Administration Act, has been in existence. The Center theme is "Proyecto Amanece" (Project Dawn) whose objective is prevention of juvenile delinquency. There are now five Aspira Clubs based at Hoboken and Ferris High Schools, and at neighborhood centers to reach those who do not attend school. The Club members work with the Police Department, community leaders, Division of Youth and Family Services, businesses and parents to involve dropouts and those in school who are failing or below grade level. Through counseling, tutorial services and recreational activities, Aspira encourages these teenagers to return to school or enroll in a high school diploma equivalency program. Among the activities in which the Hudson County Aspirantes were involved this year were:

- Law enforcement workshop
- Youth March for Jobs in Washington, D.C.
- Big Brother/Big Sister trip with younger children
- Tour of the United Nations and general assembly
- Puerto Rican Discovery Day
- Puerto Rican Day Parade
- Workshops on: career interests and school, student teaching, vocational technical careers and health careers
- Christmas toy drive

Passaic County Center

Located in Paterson, this Center serves the Passaic and Paterson school districts.

Counselors are assigned to provide in-school services to one junior and four senior high schools. Central to the program which the Aspira Clubs offer is leadership skills development designed to offer a positive experience in school and deter students from dropping out; to help them develop a positive self-image; to develop planning and organization skills; and to provide them with the opportunity for personally rewarding cultural, educational and recreational activities. This year the Passaic County Center exceeded its goal of reaching and helping over 1,000 teenagers. Aspirantes participated in the following activities this year:

- Establishment of Aspira Passaic County Scholarship Fund
- Puerto Rican Day Parade
- Workshops in: rapid-reading, self-image, impromptu speaking, Puerto Rican history and Black history
- Career Day Conference
- Youth March for Jobs in Washington, D.C.
- Aspira Awards Night
- Trips to State colleges and universities
- Workshops by college recruiters on post-secondary and financial aid opportunities



In Aspira Centers or in the schools themselves, the heart of the program is in person-to-person contact. All Aspirantes get very special attention whether it is counseling on school work or guidance for post-secondary education.



Students Served 1969-1978

- Continuing Students
- New Students

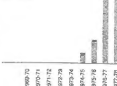


Post-secondary Placements 1969-1978

College



Technical Medical & Graduate Schools



Post-secondary Placements 1978

New Jersey

Bergen County Comm. Coll.
Bloomfield College
Burlington Community College
Centenary College
Douglass College (Rutgers)
Drew University
Essex County Comm. Coll.
Fairleigh Dickinson University
Felician College
Hudson County Comm. Coll.
Jersey City State College
Kean College of New Jersey
Livingston College (Rutgers)
Middlesex County Comm. Coll.
Monmouth Community College
Montclair State College
Morristown Community College
New Jersey Institute of Tech.
Passaic County Comm. Coll.
Princeton University
Ramapo College
Rutgers College (New Brunswick)
Rutgers College of Arts and Science (Newark)
Rutgers College of Nursing
Rutgers College of Pharmacy
St. Elizabeth's College
St. Peter's College
School of Allied Health Professions-CMDNJ
Seton Hall University
Stockton State College
Trenton State College
William Paterson College

Out-of-State Colleges and Universities

Arizona State University (Az.)
Atlantic University (Mass.)
Brevard Comm. Coll. (Fla.)
Brigham Young (Utah)
Brooks College (Ca.)
Brown University (R.I.)
Calvin College (Mich.)
Carlow College (Pa.)
Clarion State University (Pa.)
Cornell University (N.Y.)
Davis and Elkins U. (W.V.)
Delaware State College (Del.)
El Mira College (Mass.)
Evangelical College (Mo.)
Fisk University (Tenn.)
Florida A. & M. (Fla.)

Inter-American University of Puerto Rico (P.R.)
Kings College (N.Y.)
Lincoln University (Pa.)
Miami Dade College (Fla.)
Middlebury College (Vt.)
Morgan State College (Md.)
Morris College (S.C.)
North Eastern College (Mass.)
St. John's University (N.Y.)
Savannah University (Ga.)
Shaw University (N.C.)
So. Central Comm. Coll. (Cl.)
U. of Las Americas (Mx.)
University of Miami (Fla.)
University of Puerto Rico (P.R.)
West Texas University (Tx.)
Yale University (Ct.)

Vocational and Business Schools

Bell & Howell Tech.
Berkeley School of Business
Capri Institute of Hair Design
Century Court Reporting
Court Reporting School
De Vry Technical Institute
Empire Technical School
Fashion Institute of New York
First School of Secretarial & Para-Legal
Jersey City Medical Center
Kathryn Gibbs
Keubert School of Cartooning
Lincoln Technical Institute
Passaic County Technical & Vocational School
Plaza School of Business
Retz Technical School
Robert Walsh Business School
Roman Academy of Beauty
Sawyer School
Taylor Business Institute
Teledoro Aviation School
Wilfred Academy

Medical Schools

College of Medicine and Dentistry in New Jersey — Medical and Dental Schools
Rutgers Medical School
St. Michael's Medical Center
Wisconsin Medical School

Shown here are excerpts from articles which appeared last year:

Grupo Danzas "Aspira" Realiza Actuación Para Recaudar Fondos Becas

Financial Highlights

Aspira, Inc. of New Jersey

Statement of Support, Revenue and Expenses and Changes in Fund Balances

Year ended June 30, 1978

	Current funds			Total all funds
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Fixed asset fund	
Support, grants and revenue:				
Government grants	\$ 10,000	\$ 217,351		\$ 227,351
Aspira of America, Inc.	3,750	99,716		103,466
Foundations	15,000			15,000
Donated services	17,932	49,665		67,597
Corporations	18,420	3,500		21,920
United Way	22,296			22,296
Miscellaneous	3,075			3,075
Total support and revenue	90,473	370,252		460,725
Expenses:				
Program services:				
Health career opportunities		88,049		88,049
Other career and educational counseling	9,317	286,244		295,561
Total program services	9,317	374,293		383,610
Supporting services:				
Management and general	84,713		\$ 1,729	86,442
Fund raising	12,150			12,150
Total supporting services	96,863		1,729	98,592
Total expenses	106,180	374,293	1,729	482,192
Excess (deficiency) of support and revenue over expenses	4,293	(4,041)	(1,729)	(1,477)
Fund balances, beginning	10,050	16,504	8,552	35,106
Fund balances, ending	\$ 14,343	\$ 12,463	\$ 6,823	\$ 33,629

Complete auditor's report available from Aspira, Inc. of New Jersey upon request.

Financial Highlights

Aspira, Inc. of New Jersey
Statement of Functional Expenses
Year ended June 30, 1978

	Program services			Supporting services			Total expenses
	Health career opportunities	Other career and educational counseling	Total	Management and general	Fund raising	Total	
Salaries	\$ 62,383	\$ 207,967	\$ 270,350	\$ 35,431		\$ 35,431	\$ 305,781
Payroll taxes and fringe benefits	5,330	25,436	30,766	7,099		7,099	37,865
Total salaries and fringe benefits	67,713	233,403	301,116	42,530		42,530	343,646
Occupancy	3,593	14,810	18,203	1,800		1,800	20,003
Telephone and postage	3,189	8,559	11,748	4,634		4,634	16,382
Supplies and equipment rental	3,421	15,051	18,472	6,989		6,989	25,461
Professional fees and contract service payments	3,700	3,943	7,643		\$ 12,150	12,150	19,793
Travel	1,198	8,766	9,964	2,077		2,077	12,041
Program activities	2,563	4,540	7,103	2,293		2,293	9,396
Program materials	1,488	5,179	6,665				6,665
Miscellaneous	525	897	1,422	4,274		4,274	5,696
Total expenses before depreciation	87,388	294,948	382,336	64,597	12,150	76,747	459,083
Depreciation	661	613	1,274	1,845		1,845	3,119
Total expenses	\$ 88,049	\$ 295,561	\$ 383,610	\$ 66,442	\$ 12,150	\$ 78,592	\$ 462,202

Complete auditor's report available from Aspira, Inc. of New Jersey upon request.

Private Grants and Contributions
(to March 30, 1979)

Airco, Inc.
 Bell Laboratories
 Broadway Bank & Trust Co.
 Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation
 Edwards and Kelcey, Inc.
 Fidelity Union Trust Co.
 First National State Bank of N.J.
 Hoffmann-La Roche Foundation
 Jersey Central Power & Light Co.

Johnson & Johnson
 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
 Fanny & Svante Knistrom Foundation
 Midlantic National Bank
 Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Co.
 Nabisco, Inc.
 New Jersey Bell
 The New York Community Trust
 Prudential Insurance Co. of America

Public Service Electric & Gas Co.
 Sandoz Co.
 Schering-Plough Corp.
 The Florence & John Schumann Foundation
 Supermarkets General
 The Turrell Fund
 United Way
 Victoria Foundation

Aspira, Inc. of New Jersey**Annual Report****July 1, 1977 to
June 30, 1978****Board of Directors****Ms. Maria Santiago Garcia,
Chairperson**

Mr. Agapito Diaz
Ms. Elia Fontan Gold
Ms. Trinidad Gonzalez
Mr. Israel Gonzalez
Dr. Luis Nieves
Mr. Hilton Otero
Mr. Ralph Perez
Mr. Hector Rivera, Jr.
Mr. William Santiago
Ms. Carmen Solis
Ms. Amelia Voorsanger
Mr. Protase E. Woodford

Committee of Sponsors**Edward G. Lenihan,
Chairperson**

Fairleigh S. Dickinson, Jr.
Hon. Millicent Fenwick
Gustav Henningburg
Alan V. Lowenstein, Esq.
Fred G. Meissner, Jr.
Malcolm D. Talbott

Centers

Executive Office
87 Halsey St.
Newark, New Jersey 07102
(201) 642-4047
Essex County Center
87 Halsey St.
Newark, New Jersey 07102
(201) 642-8080
Hudson County Center
172 Newark Avenue
Jersey City, New Jersey 07302
(201) 432-8346
Passaic County Center
128 Broadway
Paterson, New Jersey 07505
(201) 345-4540

